

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, November 18, 2016/Kartika 27, 1938 (Saka)*

(Ministries : Agriculture and Farmers Welfare; Chemicals and Fertilizers;
Communications; Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution;
Electronics and Information Technology; Food Processing
Industries; Law and Justice; Parliamentary Affairs;
Railways; Textiles)

Total number of questions — 160

Implementation of Seed Village Scheme

321. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of areas under the Seed Village Scheme in the last two years and in the current year, State-wise, particularly in the State of Tamil Nadu; and

(b) the details of allocated and utilised amounts on this scheme in the last two years and in the current year, State-wise, particularly in the State of Tamil Nadu?

Implementation of PMFBY and WBCIS

322. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the notification of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana

(PMFBY) and Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS), State/Union Territory-wise;

(b) the details of the loanee and non-loanee farmers who have availed PMFBY and WBCIS, as on date, State/Union Territory-wise;

(c) whether only private insurance companies are providing insurance cover under PMFBY, if so, the reasons for excluding Government insurance companies; and

(d) whether it is a fact that compensation is not being offered for crop damage caused due to drought, heat wave, cold wave and frost, if so, the reasons therefor?

Implementation of guidelines of DoPT by ICAR

†323. SHRI ALI ANWAR ANSARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is complying with the guidelines of Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), Government of India with regard to seniority and promotion of its staff;

(b) whether the officers of the Council (class-II/Group B) have superseded some officers of the council itself (class-I/Group A) despite the decision taken by Union Cabinet on 29 April, 1997 for merger of the cadres of administrative staff of the Council; and

(c) if so, whether Government would take necessary steps to provide justice to the affected class-I officers?

Promoting sea food export

324. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any plan to shift from predominant capture fisheries to culture fisheries, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by Government for development of the best quality of fish brood stock for promoting sea food export?

Migration of farm labourers

325. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has assessed the impact of migration of farm labourers on the agricultural production during last year; and

(b) if so, the details of its impact on production and the steps taken by Government in this regard?

Quitting of agriculture by farmers

326. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted a review to assess the number of farmers who have quit agriculture during each of the last three years in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh and Odisha;

(b) whether irregularity in providing compensation has depressed the farmers; and

(c) the main reasons identified in the review for quitting of agriculture by farmers?

Debt burden on farmers

†327. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of bank loans and various cooperative societies' loans that are due on farmers of the country at present;

(b) whether Government will consider repaying loans taken by farmers of the country through Kisan Kalyan Kosh, if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Ministry will forward its recommendations to Ministry of Finance regarding waiver of loans taken by farmers as it was done in the cases of loans taken by industries; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Utilization of funds for drought relief in Jharkhand

328. SHRI SANJIV KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) in the context of the successive two year drought and drought relief in Jharkhand, what is the total amount released by the Central Government in 2015-16 and the current financial year;

(b) whether the Ministry has received any report regarding utilization of the funds released and the number of beneficiaries;

(c) if so, the data of number of beneficiaries in the State, district-wise; and

(d) if not, the steps being taken to monitor the utilization of funds provided by the Central Government?

Need for drip and micro irrigation methods in Maharashtra

329. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a recent study has revealed that poor water management is the main cause behind dry spells in Marathwada region of Maharashtra and termed it as "man made", if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the study has also advocated the need for drip irrigation and other micro irrigation methods to improve the situation; and

(c) if so, the action Government proposes to take on the issues raised in the study?

Unproductive cows and bullocks in the country

330. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of unproductive cows and bullocks to the total cattle population in the country;

(b) the amount of average spending and earning from an unproductive cow and bullock; and

(c) how much of this comes from the individual farmers as also from the State, annually?

Use of NPK fertilizers

331. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the agricultural yield against the use of one kg. of NPK (Nitrogen, Phosphorous, Potassium) fertilizers has come down from the green revolution years (1970-71) in the country;

(b) the list of States using a ratio, on average, not convergent with the ideal ratio (4:2:1) for Indian soil; and

(c) the measures taken, if any, to ensure that soil is not affected by excessive usage of these chemicals and at the same time ensuring that farmer's yield is not affected?

Assistance to farmers for crop loss

332. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to give any financial assistance to the farmers who have faced crop loss either due to

natural calamities or due to bad weather conditions and excessive or low rain; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Doubling the income of farmers

333. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the various steps taken by Government and progress made so far to double farmer's incomes by 2022; and

(b) whether views/suggestions of State Governments have been sought in this regard, if so, the details thereof?

Farming becoming non-profitable

334. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the increasing trend of farmers' suicide, selling of agricultural land to builders and migration of farmers from rural to urban areas in search of bread and butter are strong indicators of farming becoming highly non-profitable;

(b) if so, whether Government is serious about improving farmers' economic conditions;

(c) if so, the details of Government plan, if any, or total package devised by Government to handle such a serious condition of farmers; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Drought in Telangana

335. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware that more than 300 Mandals in Telangana were hit by drought and subsequently many districts were hit by incessant and unprecedented rains recently;

(b) whether any proposal from Telangana has been received in the Ministry for financial assistance to address the twin problems of drought and floods; and

(c) if so, the details of the proposal and action taken by the Ministry on the same?

Cropped area under irrigation

336. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is the second largest irrigated country of the world after China;

(b) if so, whether only one-third of the cropped area is under irrigation in the country;

(c) whether irrigation is the most important agricultural input in a tropical monsoon country like India where rainfall is uncertain, unreliable and erratic; and

(d) if so, the measures taken to bring more cropped area under assured irrigation?

Suicide by farmers

337. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of farmers who have committed suicide in the country in the year 2015 and 2016 so far, State-wise;

(b) whether Government has ascertained the reasons for committing

suicide by the farmers, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of schemes launched by Government to curb the spate of suicides?

Yogic farming

338. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to promote the idea of yogic farming to increase the farm production;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this will be promoted *via* Parampragat Krishi Vikas Yojana; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government is boosting organic farming in a big way, if so, the details thereof?

Promoting organic farming

339. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes introduced to promote organic farming in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that a switchover to organic farming could end the problems of agrarian distress and groundwater consumption; and

(c) the details of best performing States/ Union Territories in organic farming in the country?

Soil Health Card scheme

340. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers benefited from the Soil Health Card scheme in the country;

(b) the methodologies adopted to determine the quality of soil apropos

topography of different States in the country, which advise farmers through their Soil Health Card; and

(c) the State/Union Territory-wise list of Soil Health Cards?

Implementation of Soil Health Card scheme

341. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Soil Health Card scheme started by the Government;

(b) the details of farmers benefited, along with the target planned for, till date, State/ UT-wise;

(c) the time anticipated by Government to benefit all the farmers of the country from this scheme;

(d) the details of availability of soil testing labs;

(e) the details of the capacity of these labs for handling soil tests; and

(f) the plans for further augmentation of these soil testing labs in respect of facilities and capacity enhancement, the details thereof?

FDI in agriculture sector

342. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in agriculture sector is restricted to few areas, if so, the details thereof in the last three years, area-wise;

(b) the details of actual realization of FDI in last two-three years along with the details thereof at the proposal stage; and

(c) whether Government is planning to include other agricultural areas under FDI cap, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Production of fodder

†343. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to constitute a committee for increasing the production of fodder;

(b) if so, the whether Government has taken any step in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Production of oilseeds and pulses

344. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that effective steps are required to be taken for increasing the production of oilseeds and pulses to meet country's consumption requirement, if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(b) whether, in the last two years, Government has introduced any scheme for giving economic incentive to the producers to increase the production of the said crops and also to expand cultivation area thereof; and

(c) if so, the details of the scheme and the results achieved therefrom?

Production and consumption of agricultural producers

345. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the increase in production of food articles and cash crops during last two years;

(b) the MSP assured by Government during these years;

(c) the internal consumption of these agricultural produces during these years;

(d) the export and import of these crops in these years;

(e) how many people have shifted away from agriculture in these years; and

(f) how many have newly come to this field?

Constitution of Fodder Bank

346. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether non availability of fodder is becoming a serious problem and the cost of fodder per kg. almost matches the price of rice or wheat; and

(b) whether Government proposes to collect fodder from forests, waste lands and constitute a Fodder Bank and offer subsidy on fodder?

Investment in producing bio-fertilizers

347. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government proposes to encourage investment in producing bio-fertilizers in the country to avoid the dangers of chemical fertilizers, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government proposes to make policy to avoid chemical fertilizers?

Implementation of PMFBY

348. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total budget allocation under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) during 2016-17; and

(b) the total number of beneficiaries till 31st October, 2016 under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana along with the number of farmers under crop insurance scheme, State-wise?

Suicide by peasants in West Bengal

349. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that distress suicide of peasants in West Bengal has increased in the last five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise and district-wise; and

(c) the remedial measures taken to stop the distress suicides by peasants in West Bengal?

CACP recommendations on MSP for pulses

350. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) has recommended a proposal for increase of MSP for pulses;

(b) if so, the details thereof, item-wise; and

(c) whether Government has taken any decision on the increase of MSP as recommended by CACP, if so, the details thereof?

Assistance under post harvest management and PMKSY

351. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to enhance the assistance to the small and marginal farmers for post harvest management; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the micro-irrigation assistance is to be increased to 70 per cent under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), if so, the details thereof?

Huge increase in production of onion and tomato

†352. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a huge increase in production of onion and tomato this year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the farmers do not get even the production cost due to lack of any kind of help from Government;

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to provide profitable cost of

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

produce to farmers in the event of bumper production of crops in future; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Functioning of Kisan Call Centre

†353. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Kisan Call Centre working presently in the country including Chhattisgarh;

(b) whether these Call Centres are equipped with modern techniques for providing sufficient information to the farmers, if so, the details thereof and the details of steps taken by Government to strengthen these Call Centres; and

(c) whether Government is considering to open more agriculture Call Centres in future, if so, the details thereof, location-wise?

Converting Pusa Agricultural Institute into a Central Agricultural University

†354. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: SHRIMATI MISHA BHARTI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any action plan to convert Pusa Agricultural Institute into a Central Agricultural University;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount of budget allocated for it and by when the implementation work would be started?

Popularizing organic farming

355. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether organic farming in the country is limited to individual efforts only and Government is yet to come out with any comprehensive programme to popularize organic farming in various parts of the country despite the fact that use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides has been found to be hazardous for health;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the major steps Government has taken to promote and propagate the benefits of organic farming amongst the farmers and the incentives given for it, if any?

Reduction in MSP on the basis of moisture contents in the crops

356. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a reduction in MSP given to farmers on the basis of content of moisture in the crops in the mandis, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether there is a standardised method to determine the moisture content in the crops in mandis and the name of the department responsible for it; and

(c) whether there are checks and balances to see whether the appropriate method is being followed so that farmers are given their due, if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

MSP of pulses

357. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has already commenced procurement of pulses from farmers at Minimum Support Price (MSP), if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has received any proposals for enhancing MSP of pulses, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has taken any decision to hike the MSP of any of the pulses, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Controlling prices of patented drugs

358. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has been asked to examine a proposal to control prices of patented drugs;

(b) if so, the current status of this examination and when is the report expected;

(c) the legal regime which exists in the country to control prices of patented life saving drugs for diseases like cancer, etc.;

(d) whether NITI Aayog has recommended that NPPA should not control prices of all essential drugs as that hampers investment in pharmaceutical sector; and

(e) if so, how does the Ministry respond to this?

Indigenous production of fertilizers

359. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the total demand of different fertilizers in the country during the last three years, State-wise, including Punjab;

(b) whether the demand could be fulfilled by indigenous production;

(c) whether Government has specific plan for starting new urea and other fertilizers plants in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to abridge the gap in demand and production of fertilizers in the country?

Joint venture route for revival of sick pharma PSUs

360. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is exploring joint venture opportunities to revive sick pharma Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) on the line of the model used in the revival of sick fertilizers PSUs in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal to revive sick pharma PSUs; and

(c) how soon the proposal will be implemented, the details thereof?

Jan Aushadhi Scheme

361. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the current status of the Jan Aushadhi Scheme;

(b) the number of shops opened in the previous year and the number of shops to be opened next year; and

(c) the number of districts being covered by this scheme, State-wise?

Variation in prices of drugs of same formula

362. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether different prices are being charged by drugs/medicines manufacturers for the same formula under different trade names;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and the remedial measures taken/proposed to regulate the prices and to ensure uniformity in the retail prices for the same drugs/medicines;

(c) whether Government is evolving a mechanism for determining prices of medicines on the basis of various brands instead of the raw material, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the remedial steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

Revival of fertilizer plant at Sindri

363. SHRI SANJIV KUMAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the revival plan for Sindri fertilizer plant;

(b) by when the Sindri fertilizer plant is likely to become operational again;

(c) the steps taken to remove the encroachments on the land belonging to the unit; and

(d) the likely employment generation, phase-wise from the revival?

Demand and supply of urea and fertilizers to Bihar and Jharkhand

†364. SHRIMATI MISHA BHARTI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of urea and fertilizers demanded by Governments of Bihar and Jharkhand during the last three years;

(b) the details of allocations of urea and fertilizers as compared to their demand;

(c) the reasons behind non-allocation of fertilizers to these States as per their demands; and

(d) whether Government proposes to formulate any policy to meet the demands of these States for 2017-18 and if so, the details thereof?

Sale of sub-standard fertilizers

365. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that sub-standard fertilizer is also being sold in the market in large quantities due to which poor farmer as well as the nation is being cheated;

(b) the number of fertilizer's samples collected by enforcement agencies, State-wise, during the last three years;

(c) the details of test results of the samples, State-wise; and

(d) the action taken by Government in this regard?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Study on mixing of ethanol with petrol in chemical industry

‡366. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of ethanol used in chemical industry during the last three years;

(b) whether the Ministry has conducted a study about actual effect of the decision of mandatory mixing of ethanol in petrol on chemical industry, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Ministry has expressed its reservations regarding mandatory use of ethanol mixed petrol in the country, if so, the reasons therefor?

Effect of Neem-coated urea on urea prices and revenue savings

‡367. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of saving of revenue through Neem-coated urea;

(b) whether Neem-coated urea has helped curbing of urea smuggling in other areas, including Nepal, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether revenue savings are likely to reduce urea prices, if so, the details thereof?

Shifting of Headquarter of CIPET

368. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government is considering to shift the headquarter of Central Institute of Plastic Engineering and Technology (CIPET) from Chennai to New Delhi, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

Reforms in telephone and mobile services

‡369. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken for bringing qualitative reforms in telephone and mobile services under the Centre's telecom system and the time-bound programme for the future; and

(b) the present capacity of the major telecom companies in the country and the areas where they are providing comparatively better services to the consumers with regard to (a) above?

Internet connectivity in moving trains

370. SHRI DILIPKUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that internet connectivity in moving trains is pathetic in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Ministry to improve internet connectivity in moving trains?

Upward revision in rates of postal products

371. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in an attempt to prune annual revenue deficit, the Department of Posts has proposed a slew of steps that could net an additional ₹ 1000 crore in earnings through an upward revision in rates of several postal products;

(b) whether a similar revision was made

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

in 2001-02, and expenses have risen by 262 per cent since the last revision;

(c) the extent of increase in rates of postal products; and

(d) whether India Posts has benefited from boom in e-commerce deliveries of COD consignments from country's top online sellers by sprucing up its parcel delivery services?

Finalisation of Net Neutrality policy

372. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) by when Government proposes to finalize its long delayed Net Neutrality policy; and

(b) whether there has been any update received by Government from TRAI on when it would be submitting its recommendations on the consultation paper issued on Regulatory Framework for Over the Top Service, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons for this longstanding delay?

Supreme Court's Order on Aadhaar

373. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has taken cognizance of the fact that several Government agencies have violated the Supreme Court's Order dated 11 August, 2015 and 15 October, 2015 on Aadhaar; and

(b) if so, whether the Ministry has taken any action to ensure that any such violations are prevented in future?

Radiation from mobile towers in residential areas

374. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number and percentage of mobile towers in the country located in the residential areas;

(b) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the reports that electromagnetic radiation emitted by these mobile towers are harmful for human health; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to minimize citizens' exposure to electromagnetic radiation?

Defamatory statement by COAI against TRAI

375. SHRI CHUNIBHAI KANJIBHAI GOHEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) is issuing surreptitious and defamatory statements against Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) which are devoid of any merit;

(b) if so, the complete details in this regard;

(c) whether Government is aware that COAI is controlled by private telecom operators and statements issued by COAI are beneficial to these operators; and

(d) if so, the action Government proposes to take against COAI?

Poor services of BSNL and MTNL

376. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the poor services of BSNL and MTNL in most States;

(b) whether delay or failure in upgradation of equipments is one main reason for it, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government intends to improve services of these public sector concerns;

(d) the steps taken to improve services of mobile phones for vocal contact, exchange of data, internet etc.; and

(e) whether any measures are envisaged to avoid call drops, if so, the details thereof?

Fibre grid of Andhra Pradesh

377. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has studied the fibre grid of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that for just ₹ 149, Government of Andhra Pradesh through fibre grid is providing internet at 15 MBPS speed, 150 free to air TV channels and telephone services; and

(c) if so, whether there are any plans before the Ministry to replicate this in other States to bring down expenses for above such services?

Increasing the speed of internet in the country

†378. SHRIMATI MISHA BHARTI:
SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by Government to increase the speed of internet in the country and its reach into small rural areas;

(b) the mediums of providing high speed internet service in the country; and

(c) by when the entire country will be connected through optical fibre network?

Production and consumption of sugar

379. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is the largest consumer of sugar in the world;

(b) if so, the production and consumption thereof during each of the last three years;

(c) whether consumption of sugar has become a hotspot for diabetes and obesity as a main reason; and

(d) whether some State Governments have expressed their interest to cultivate Stevia crop as an alternative to sugar, if so, the details thereof?

Steps to control rise in prices of pulses

380. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL:
SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government plans to bridge wholesale and retail prices of pulses like Arhar, Urad, Chana, Moongdal, etc. in the lean seasons, if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether there is any emergency planning between the stakeholders like States and other agencies, who keep buffer stock to be roped in to stabilize prices of pulses in future, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any contingency plan to import these pulses from abroad to control their prices, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of import of these pulses during current fiscal year?

Un-timely arrival of foodgrains in PDS shops

‡381. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foodgrains are provided every month to each BPL family through Public Distribution System (PDS) shops in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is aware of the fact that godown managers do not provide foodgrains to PDS shops in time every month saying that foodgrains have not arrived, as a result of which, the poor have to purchase foodgrains meant for two months in one go; and

(c) whether Government proposes to make any arrangement for timely arrival of foodgrains?

Difference in wholesale and retail prices of essential commodities

382. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the

huge difference in wholesale and retail prices of essential commodities and various vegetables which causes a lot of problems for the weaker sections of the society;

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to regulate retail prices of essential commodities and vegetables sold in the market with a view to provide relief to the consumers and if so, the details thereof and by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Consumer Mela to redress consumer grievances

383. SHRID. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently conducted a Consumer Mela inviting regulators and industry together to redress consumer grievances;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the outcome of such Mela; and

(c) whether Government plans to organise such Consumer Melas in future all over the country, if so, the details thereof?

Deployment of independent agency to track wholesale and retail prices of essential commodities

384. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to engage an independent agency to track the wholesale and retail prices of all essential

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

commodities rather than depending solely on inputs from State Governments; and

(b) if so, how far this arrangement will be helpful in tracking the wholesale and retail prices of essential commodities, the details thereof?

Wholesale and retail prices of pulses

385. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite a fall of 40 per cent in wholesale prices, the retail prices of pulses remained high since June in most cities; and

(b) if so, the details of wholesale and retail prices of major pulses in major cities, as per the latest data available, and Government's reaction thereto?

Rise in prices of essential commodities

†386. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of essential commodities and foodgrains, including pulses, sugar, fruits, vegetables, edible oil, milk, etc. have increased substantially during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, as-on-date;

(c) the reasons for increase in prices of essential commodities; and

(d) whether Government has taken any steps to check the increase in prices of essential commodities?

Protection of foodgrains in storage godowns

387. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has plans to increase the storage capacities of foodgrains stored in various storage godowns belonging to Central Warehouse Corporation, FCI and other storage areas, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has plans to increase safety and protection of food storages protect to foodgrains from theft, fire, pilferage, rotting and decaying; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Rise in prices of food commodities supplied to States and UTs

388. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has increased the price of rice provided to various States in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has increased prices of other food commodities supplied and distributed to various States/UTs in the country, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to make the public distribution cost effective and efficient so as to reach every poor and middle class house?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Export of wheat

389. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the production of wheat in the years 2014 and 2015 along with the estimated production for 2016;

(b) the quantity of wheat procured by the FCI at Minimum Support Price (MSP) and the quantum of buffer stocks available; and

(c) the quantity of wheat exported in the years 2013, 2014 and 2015 and its value in US \$?

Beneficiaries covered under NFSA

†390. SHRI RAM NARAIN DUDI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state;

(a) the total percentage of beneficiaries covered under National Food Security Act (NFSA), State- wise: and

(b) whether it is a fact that Government of Rajasthan has requested the Central Government to reassess the number of beneficiaries covered under the said Scheme, if so, the action taken by Central Government on the above request till date?

Augmentation in storage capacity of foodgrains

391. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has initiated any programme to augment the storage

capacity of foodgrains across the country, including Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

Cases against e-commerce companies

392. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of cases filed before district consumer fora across the country against various e-commerce companies for the deficiency of service; and

(b) the details of order, if any, passed by the fora regarding payment of compensation to the affected consumers?

Supply of sub-standard foodgrains for BPL category people

393. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some States are not lifting their full quota of foodgrains for the Below Poverty Line (BPL) category people;

(b) whether States are not lifting their quota of foodgrains due to their sub-standard quality; and

(c) if so, the action Government proposes to take to ensure supply of better quality of foodgrains to BPL category people?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Rottening of wheat in Punjab and Haryana

‡394. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge quantity of wheat from Punjab and Haryana was left exposed for want of godowns, and got rotten due to rains;

(b) if so, the quantity of grain rotted due to rains; and

(c) whether State Government incurred losses due to it, if so, the details thereof?

Distribution of subsidized pulses using postal network

395. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to use postal networks, like post offices, for distribution of subsidized pulses from buffer stock, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the types of pulses that would be made available in the outlet and how availability information would be provided to the general public in rural areas; and

(c) whether sale of subsidized commodities would be available to the general public, apart from ration card holders, if so, the details thereof?

Instances of cyber crimes

396. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of instances of cyber crimes reported in the country in the last three years and in the current year, particularly crimes against women and children;

(b) the steps/measures being taken by Government for prevention of cyber crimes; and

(c) whether Government has taken steps to block websites containing derogatory and lewd content towards women and children and if so, the details thereof?

New electronics products policy

397. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans for new electronics products policy for the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the policy would focus on exports and employment generation, if so, the details thereof?

Targets of digital governance

‡398. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken adequate measures to achieve the targets of digital and good governance, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government intends to start up new products of information technology and new technologies so that present products and technologies can be strengthened, if so, the details thereof;

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government has taken any action to improve telecommunication system in villages to achieve the target of digital and transparent governance; and

(d) if so, the State-wise details of the action taken in this regard?

Rise in data and privacy breaches

399. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that data and privacy breaches are on the rise, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the details of various initiatives taken by the Ministry to address the issue of guaranteeing cyber security in last two years; and

(c) the funds allocated for the same?

India BPO Promotion Scheme

400. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received good response under India BPO Promotion Scheme (IBPS), if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the present status of the project?

Improving export performance in IT Sector

401. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:
SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps to improve the export performance in the field of Information Technology (IT) sector;

(b) if so, the details of the achievements made in the field of IT, software services and electronics during the last three years; and

(c) the target fixed to promote export in these fields and develop Computer Hardware Manufacturing sector for the next three years?

Tackling automation-induced redundancy

402. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government is taking to tackle automation-induced redundancy or loss of skills due to benching;

(b) whether Government is considering the 'flexicurity' system of Denmark which retrains the workers hit by the above problems; and

(c) if so, the details of steps being taken in that direction?

FDI and new food processing units

403. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL:
SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has set any target of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) for Food Processing Industry during current fiscal year, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether there is any plan to set up clusters/special zones and new food processing units in the country during 2016-17; and

(c) the number of food processing units to be set up in Odisha during 2016-17, the details thereof?

Mega Food Parks in Punjab

404. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government recently laid foundation-stone of Mega Food Park project in Ludhiana, Punjab, if so, the details thereof;

(b) how many other Mega Food Parks are being operationalised in Punjab, the details thereof;

(c) by when all the Mega Food Parks, including the one at Ludhiana, will be operative and with what facilities/capacity; and

(d) the estimated job opportunities, both direct and indirect, expected to be provided to the people in the catchment area?

Food Processing Industry in North-East India

405. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the various schemes and projects under the Food Processing Industry that have been introduced in North-East India since 2014; and

(b) the assessment of the impact through the schemes and projects till 2016, State-wise?

Mega Food Parks

406. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) how many Mega Food Park projects have been started or whose foundation stone was laid and are in the process, in the last two years, with details;

(b) how many other Mega Food Parks are in full operation in the last two years;

(c) by when all Mega Food Parks will be operative and with what facilities/capacity; and

(d) the estimated job opportunities, both direct and indirect, expected to be provided to the people in the catchment area and in what period?

Availability of court judgements on websites

407. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether judgements of District courts are available on the websites;

(b) whether any financial assistance is given to State Governments in this regard;

(c) whether there is any monitoring system to judge the quality of judgement given by Subordinate Judiciary; and

(d) the details as to how the objective is proposed to be achieved?

Entry of foreign law firms

408. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently

decided to allow foreign law firms in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of the method of entry;

(c) whether the Advocates Act bars people/firms from practising law in India if they are not citizens of the country;

(d) if so, how the Ministry is planning to integrate foreign law firms and advocacy; and

(e) whether new rules will allow Indian law firms to set up offices overseas and hire foreign qualified partners, if so, the details thereof?

Vacancies and selection of Judges

409. SHRIDEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of vacancies of Judges in the District Courts and High Courts, State-wise;

(b) the current status of the Memorandum of Procedure proposed between the Central Government and the judiciary; and

(c) whether Government is planning to introduce an All India Judicial Service to appoint Judges for filling such vacancies, if so, the details thereof?

Mechanism for speedy resolution of disputes

410. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there is a need to create a vibrant dispute resolution system for speedy trial of commercial disputes and in the interest of ease of doing business;

(b) if so, the mechanism put in place to create more tribunals and encourage arbitration in the country; and

(c) the steps being taken to train and groom professional arbitrators in the country, the details thereof?

Functionality of CCTV cameras in Courts

411. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether inoperative CCTV cameras installed in Courts is leading to situation of endangering the accused and complainants alike;

(b) the State-wise details of CCTV cameras installed in courts along with expenditure incurred thereon during the last three years, including district-wise details for West Bengal;

(c) the current Court-wise operative state of existing CCTV cameras and details of their monitoring done by the Ministry;

(d) whether the Ministry intends to install CCTV cameras in all Courts across the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Development of judicial infrastructure

412. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a Centrally-Sponsored Scheme to assist States for development of judicial infrastructure where fund sharing is 60:40 between Centre and the States;

(b) whether Government of Uttar Pradesh has sent a proposal detailing the expenditure for 2016-17 under the Scheme, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government of Uttar Pradesh has requested to approve and release Central share for the year 2016-17 under the Scheme, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Pending cases in Courts

413. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of pendency of cases in Supreme Court as on October, 2016;

(b) the pendency of cases in various High Courts and Subordinate Courts in various States as on October, 2016; and

(c) the action taken by Government to reduce the pendency of cases in various Courts?

Vacant posts of judges

†414. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether only 17 Judges are available for every 10 lakh citizens in the country and almost one fourth posts in High Courts are lying vacant while more than three crore cases are pending in various Courts;

(b) if so, the total number of posts of Judges lying vacant in the country, including

Maharashtra, the State-wise details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure that, in particular, the rural citizens of the country get quick justice and the cases pending in the Courts are disposed of at the earliest?

Age-limit for appointment of Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts

415. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government mulls increasing the age of superannuation for the Judges of High Courts and the Supreme Court;

(b) whether Government plans to decrease the age-limit to 42 years from the present age-limit of 45 years for appointing Judges in High Courts; and

(c) whether Government plans to increase salaries and perquisites of Judges of High Courts and the Supreme Court, the details thereof?

Appointment of Judges of High Courts

416. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a great delay in the appointment of Judges in the High Courts of the country, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government has assigned the task to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Law and Justice to investigate into the matter;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether any report has been submitted by the Committee in the matter, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures being taken by Government to appoint Judges for early disposal of pending cases?

Shortage of Judges and pending court cases

†417. SHRIMATI CHHAYA
VERMA:
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH
YADAV:
SHRI VISHAMBHAR
PRASAD NISHAD:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of cases in various Courts of the country are pending due to dearth of Judges;

(b) the number of posts of judges lying vacant at present in various Courts of the country and the steps taken to fill this gap during last three years;

(c) the suggestions of Law Commission on increasing the strength of Judges and whether Government is implementing those suggestions; and

(d) the number of cases pending at present in various Courts of the country and the time required to complete the hearing if these are processed at this pace, the details thereof?

Increasing number of divorce cases

†418. SHRIMATI CHHAYA
VERMA:
SHRI VISHAMBHAR
PRASAD NISHAD:

CH. SUKHRAM SINGH
YADAV:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of divorce cases are increasing in Family Courts, the details of such cases during the last five years; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that cases of triple talak have come into light, the details of such cases during the last five years?

Setting the Law Commission free from Government control

419. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to free the Law Commission of India from its control to make it more effective, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) by when the Commission would become independent?

Constructing new and modern railway stations in Uttar Pradesh and Delhi

420. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to construct new and modern railway stations in Uttar Pradesh and Delhi, if so, the details of such railway stations in both the States;

(b) the total amount of funds sanctioned for renovation and new construction; and

(c) the time-line given for completion of work?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Cancellation of Tatkal booking login IDs

421. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether wrong procedure in Tatkal booking leads to cancellation of login IDs of the user maintained by IRCTC, if so, the details thereof;

(b) how many such login IDs have been restored in the last six months; and

(c) the efforts made to make the train booking process user-friendly in view of crores of users using IRCTC login IDs?

Redevelopment of Visakhapatnam and Anakapalle railway stations

422. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Visakhapatnam and Anakapalle railway stations have been identified for redevelopment with modern and Wi-Fi facilities;

(b) the details of works proposed to be undertaken as part of the redevelopment;

(c) whether the process of inviting proposals from developers with designs and business ideas have been received in the Ministry with regard to the above two stations, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when Wi-Fi facility would be enabled at Anakapalle station?

Impact of GST on freight business of Railways

423. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that implementation of GST will adversely affect freight business of Railways, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the action plan of Railways to make freight business profitable after implementation of GST?

Environmental clearance for railway projects

424. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several railway projects are facing impediments due to lack of environmental clearances;

(b) if so, the details regarding such pending projects and the time period for which these projects are pending; and

(c) the details regarding loss to Railways, including financial loss, due to pendency of these projects?

Extending platform of Dumraon railway station

†425. SHRI ALI ANWAR ANSARI:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government will consider renaming Dumraon railway station in the name of world famous Shehnai player and Bharat Ratna Bismillah Khan, which is his paternal railway station;

(b) whether Government will extend the platform at Dumraon railway station with shed for 24 racks on both up and down side of platform in view of number of passengers in Dumraon divisional headquarter and whether it will construct

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

new overbridge towards east of the station; and

(c) whether Government proposes to ensure stoppage of Patna-Mathura-Kota Express, Patna-Secunderabad Express, Jansadharan Express, Mahananda Express, Vikramshila Express and Brahmaputra Mail at Dumraon station?

On-going railway projects in Andhra Pradesh

426. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of ongoing railway projects such as new lines, gauge conversion, doubling, electrification, signaling, etc. in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the status of each of such projects with initial cost of project, outlay sanctioned, released and spent since inception of such projects along with the reasons for cost overrun, if any;

(c) the details of target date of each of such projects and the reasons for time overrun, if any; and

(d) the plan of action of the Ministry to complete the above projects, project-wise?

Reducing congestion in Bihar-bound trains

†427. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has announced several facilities for train passengers throughout the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is aware of the fact that the trains coming from big cities to Bihar remain overcrowded;

(c) whether Government is contemplating to run new trains to Bihar in the next Rail budget in order to reduce congestion in trains; and

(d) the number of new trains provided to Bihar in the last two years and the reasons of trains running late from their scheduled time?

Eliminating railway level crossings on National Highways

428. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have signed an MoU with the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways to eliminate railway level crossings on National Highways;

(b) if so, the number of railway level crossings eliminated by construction of ROB/RUBs during the last two years of signing of the MoU;

(c) the reasons for very slow pace of implementation of the MoU; and

(d) the fresh steps taken by Government to expedite the process of eliminating railway level crossings on National Highways?

Overcrowded Mumbai suburban trains

429. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than eighty lakh people travel daily in Mumbai suburban trains—the lifeline of the city and many of the trains are running overcrowded, if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government is considering any proposal with the Government of Maharashtra for constructing an elevated corridor to decongest the traffic; and

(c) if so, the details thereof indicating the details of plans chalked out by Railways to sort out the problems of local train passengers during the next three years?

Open defecation alongside railway stations

430. SHRI T. G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware of the fact that open defecation alongside railway stations is causing a great inconvenience to people, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the Ministry has initiated any efforts under Swachh Bharat Programme to clean up and construct public toilets alongside railway stations in the country, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Television facilities on Railways

431. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to provide television facilities on Indian Railways and Konkan Railway, if so, whether any feasibility study has been made in this regard;

(b) whether any practical difficulties have been noted;

(c) the companies from whom technical or feasibility reports have been sought; and

(d) by when television facilities are likely to be made available, the details thereof?

Unmanned railway level crossings on broad-gauge and meter-gauge networks

432. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unmanned railway level crossings in the country and how many of them are on the broad-gauge and meter-gauge railway network, respectively at present;

(b) the number of railway accidents which took place on the railway level crossings and how many of them were fatal during the current year; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Mission Zero Accidents and elimination of unmanned railway level crossings had been announced in Railway Budget 2016-17 and if so, the steps taken in this direction and the results thereof?

Dynamic ticket pricing

433. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the dynamic ticket pricing, introduced in Rajdhani and Shatabdi trains, has made them totally out of reach of common masses, if so, the rationale behind such a move; and

(b) how much extra revenue generation has been reported after the introduction of dynamic ticket pricing in these trains?

Container trains

434. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are

considering container trains for export and import cargo;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railways are considering to have time-table for container trains;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there have been demands to improve the services and reduce the tariffs; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Railways in this regard?

MoU with State Governments for construction of new railway lines

435. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with State Governments for construction of railway lines, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railways have been pressing the State Governments to share the cost of railway projects in the State for their early completion; and

(c) if so, the States which have shown interest in such proposals, so far?

Second entry point at Bhagat Ki Kothi railway station in Jodhpur

†436. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to open the second entry point at the Bhagat Ki Kothi railway station in Jodhpur, Rajasthan;

(b) if so, by when and the details thereof; and

(c) whether any proposal of opening the second gate is pending before the Railway Board, if so, the action being taken to sanction the same?

Doubling of Railway lines in Rajasthan

†437. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for doubling of railway line from Phulera Junction to Jodhpur is pending in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, by when the above proposal would be sanctioned, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any proposal for doubling of railway line from Jodhpur to Marwar Junction is pending?

Revenue from surge pricing in trains

438. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have introduced surge pricing in Rajdhani, Durgam and Shatabdi trains from 9 September, 2016; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the expected revenue earning from this step in a year?

Railway bridges having outlived their life span

†439. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of railway bridges in the country that have outlived their life span, State-wise list thereof;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether the Ministry has formulated any time-bound scheme for construction of new bridges in place of those railway bridges which have outlived their life span; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and whether Government does not consider that these bridges are in the interest of the public?

Plan for track renewal

440. SHRI SHADI LAL BATRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have prepared any plan for track renewal during the Twelfth Plan period, if so, the details thereof, zone-wise;

(b) whether the absence of track renewal work has resulted in high maintenance costs and reduced reliability of assets, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Railways to speed up the track renewal work in the country, including in North zone?

Status of construction of ROBs

441. SHRI SHADI LAL BATRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of construction of the ongoing Road Over Bridges (ROBs) in the country, particularly in the States of Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, along with the expenditure incurred thereon;

(b) the number of ROB projects which are running behind schedule, including reasons therefor, and the revised time-frame fixed for their completion; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to replace all the existing railway crossings by ROBs in near future?

Clearance from Commission of Railway Safety for starting new trains

442. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are mandated to get clearance from Commission of Railway Safety before starting new trains;

(b) if so, whether it was alone in case of Talgo and other faster trains; and

(c) the Commission's stand in this regard?

Qadian-Beas railway line

443. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Qadian-Beas railway line had got approval from the Ministry in 2011;

(b) whether the approved budget of ₹ 240 crore has been utilized for the project;

(c) whether it is a fact that the works have not been completed till now; and

(d) the reasons for the delay in completion of the project?

Development of Multi Functional Complex sites

444. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of development of Multi Functional Complex (MFC) sites awarded to IRCON, RITES, RVNI, in 2011-12,

2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16; and

(b) the details of development of MFC sites awarded to Private Sector in 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16?

Unmanned railway level crossings in Rajasthan

†445. SHRI RAM NARAIN DUDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the existing number of unmanned railway level crossings in Rajasthan;

(b) the details of accidents taken place at such unmanned railway level crossings during the last three years; and

(c) by when guards are likely to be posted at such crossings?

Constitution of a Rail Travel Regulatory Authority

446. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Rail Travel Regulatory Authority is being constituted; and

(b) if so, the role of Government in ensuring the affordability of rail travel and commercial services once the proposed Rail Travel Regulatory Authority comes into existence?

Non-budgetary source of funds for infrastructure projects

447. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are planning non-

budget sourcing of funds for infrastructure projects;

(b) if so, the details of the proposed sources from which the funds will be raised; and

(c) whether Railways are proposing any mechanism to ensure protection of the interests of common railway commuters when such funds are sourced from non-budgetary sources?

Increasing trains' carrying capacity of passengers

448. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that increasing carrying capacity by introducing more trains is not feasible as most of the routes face an over-capacity problem;

(b) whether it is also a fact that almost all the sections of Railways are running at a capacity of over 100 per cent; and

(c) if so, the other measures Railways are considering to increase the carrying capacity of passengers?

Laying of new railway lines to increase speed of trains

†449. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to lay new railway lines to increase the speed of trains;

(b) if so, whether Government is also considering to lay new railway lines in Gujarat; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Introduction of flexi fare plan

†450. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the profit earned/losses incurred by Railways after the introduction of 'flexi plan' for fare recently;

(b) whether it is a fact that this is causing inconvenience to railway passengers and the seats of many trains remain vacant; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government for the passengers?

Installation of bio-toilets in passenger coaches and at railway stations

†451. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of bio-toilets installed in passenger coaches and at railway stations in the country and the number of bio-toilets installed therein before the launch of Green Corridor scheme, the details thereof along with the expenditure incurred thereon; and

(b) the number of bio-toilets targeted to be installed in passenger coaches during 2016-17 and the amount allocated for the same, the details thereof?

Problems faced by passengers in Tatkal reservation

452. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of the problems being faced by passengers in getting Tatkal reservation despite making several improvements to check the misuse of the system, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether cases of touts/agents providing Tatkal tickets, at huge premium, have come to the notice of Railways and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to ensure smooth functioning of Tatkal reservation system and prevent its misuse?

Development of railways in Assam

453. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of projects undertaken by Government for overall development of railways in Assam during financial years 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17;

(b) the details of the projects with names thereof; and

(c) the project-wise status on execution of those projects?

Unavailability of train tickets

454. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over ten lakh people in the country fail to travel by train daily, due to unavailability of tickets, if so, report details of Rail Yatri in this regard; and

(b) the action proposed by Government and the estimated loss to the exchequer?

Railway projects in Uttar Pradesh

455. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) the details of various railway projects in Uttar Pradesh, the status thereof, project-wise;

(b) the number of projects getting delayed and the reasons therefor, project-wise;

(c) the cost over-run for each delayed project, project-wise; and

(d) the efforts made by Railways to complete the projects within the time schedule or extended time-frame?

Trial runs of Talgo train

456. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether trials of Spanish-made Talgo train on Delhi-Mumbai route have been made recently, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that Railways do not have permission from Commissioner Railway Safety (CRS) for trial of Talgo train, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether CRS is raising objections for not taking prior permission for conducting trial run of the train; and

(d) the reasons for lack of coordination between CRS and Railways?

Allotment of side berths while making advance booking

457. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only side berths are allotted to passengers of 2nd AC coaches when they reserve their tickets in advance, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that lower

berths at main side of AC coaches are allotted only to those who book under Tatkal scheme?

New Delhi-Chennai Bullet train

458. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the present status of the Bullet train project announced between New Delhi and Chennai?

Surge pricing in trains

459. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the surge pricing in trains have benefited Railways, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is a fact that seats are going vacant after the surge pricing has been introduced, if so, the details thereof?

Performance of Rail Vikas Nigam Limited

460. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the performance of Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) has been very poor in implementing the projects in Odisha where projects of more than 15 years old, such as doubling of Rajathagarh, Baranga, have not been completed as yet;

(b) if so, the reasons for giving execution work of the new third line from Bhadrak to Vizianagaram and Vizianagaram to Sambalpur to RVNL; and

(c) whether the Ministry feels that RVNL is equipped to commission such huge projects timely?

Redressal of problems of oilseeds and pulses growers in Maharashtra

461. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the problems of oilseeds and pulses growers of Maharashtra and other parts of the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to non-redressal of their problems, the oilseeds and pulses growers in Maharashtra have again started sowing water guzzling sugarcane crop in their fields which may result in severe drought conditions, if so, the details thereof; and the remedial measures Government proposes to take in this matter?

Aadhaar-based ticket booking mechanism

462. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government aims to introduce Aadhaar-based ticket booking mechanism in Railways; and

(b) the Government's analysis of the challenges in making Aadhaar the basis of booking railway tickets for ordinary passengers, the details thereof?

Separate safety fund for Railways

463. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have sought funds from Ministry of Finance to create a separate safety fund to ensure safety operations in Railways, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of funds sought for and the nature of safety works planned?

Cancellation of confirmed e-tickets

†464. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD: SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that confirmed railway e-ticket can not be cancelled after preparation of chart and one has to file TDR for this which causes problem in refund;

(b) the reasons for not finding a way for cancellation of confirmed e-ticket, despite availability of advanced technology; and

(c) the total amount received by Railways due to non-cancellation of confirmed e-tickets in the last three years, the details thereof?

Flexi fare in rail tickets

†465. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV: SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD: SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the excess amount received from rail passengers by way of flexi fare rate of railway tickets and the trains in which this system is currently implemented;

(b) whether interests of poor man are affected with decisions like flexi fares;

(c) whether Railways are becoming fully commercial due to decisions like flexi rail fare, due to which common man has to pay more for travels to accomplish his day to day work; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) the steps taken by the Ministry so as to lessen the burden of the common man during rail travel, the details thereof?

Crashing of Railways' website during Tatkal bookings

†466. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH
YADAV:
SHRI VISHAMBHAR
PRASAD NISHAD:
SHRIMATI CHHAYA
VERMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware of the fact that few days ago before Diwali, the Railways' website got stuck for some time from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the time of booking of Tatkal e-tickets and all the Tatkal tickets of major trains were booked during that time; and

(b) the reasons that the Railways' website get stuck at the time of booking of Tatkal e-tickets and the reasons for exhausting of Tatkal tickets; when the website gets stuck; and

(c) whether the Ministry is getting/will get this investigated, the details thereof?

Addition of AC coaches in Amritsar-Dehradun Express

467. SHRI SHWAIT MALIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to add more AC coaches in Amritsar-Dehradun Express, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the Ministry has taken steps to replace/repair the coaches of Amritsar-Haridwar Jan Shatabadi Express which are in poor condition, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the passenger capacity of Amritsar-Haridwar Jan Shatabadi Express can be increased by adding general and AC coaches, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

Developing Amritsar railway station

468. SHRI SHWAIT MALIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any progress has been made in regard of developing Amritsar railway station into world class railway station;

(b) whether Government is in process of re-introducing Amritsar-Katra tri-weekly train which was flagged off on 21 September, 2015 but later discontinued, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it is possible to re-introduce this train on daily basis with two AC coaches and rest of general coaches, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

Protection and preservation of railway heritage

469. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has listed out the stations, bridges, railway lines, godowns, buildings, etc. older than 100 years, which deserve to be labeled as railway heritage in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures taken to ensure that the heritage character of railway heritage properties are not lost in any manner due to ignorance and instead, remain preserved, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Introduction of R-MITRA app

†470. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether R-MITRA (Railway Mobile Instant Tracking Response and Assistance) app has been launched by Railways for the security of female commuters, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether there is any decrease in the crime against women in Railways after launching of this app, if so, the details thereof?

Bogibeel project

471. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Railways to complete the Bogibeel bridge over the Brahmaputra river between Dibrugarh and Dhemaji district; and

(b) whether the Ministry has taken decision on the latest projected date of commissioning of the bridge?

Railway projects in West Bengal

472. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various railway projects in West Bengal, the status thereof, project-wise;

(b) the number of projects getting delayed and the reasons therefor, project-wise;

(c) the cost over-run for each delayed project, project-wise; and

(d) the efforts made by Railways to complete the projects within the time schedule or extended time-frame?

Passengers travelling to and fro train no. 12415/12416

†473. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the class-wise and day-wise number of passengers of all classes who travelled to and fro from Delhi's Hazrat Nizamuddin station from 21 October, 2016 to 28 October, 2016 in train number 12415/12416; and

(b) the duration of stoppage of the said train and the current status of cleanliness, lighting, sound systems, platform edging, coach indicators and traffic control in the station premises and from platform no. 2 to 6 and the time-bound measures for improving the conditions therein?

Making handloom clothes mandatory as uniform

474. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is focusing to make the handloom clothes mandatory in all Government departments, schools and colleges wherever there is a uniform or dress code;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this direction to promote handloom business and whether Government will make it mandatory at least in Government Departments and Institutes; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Survival of small and medium scale textile industries

475. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether many small and medium scale industries are facing extremely miserable condition, resulting in unemployment and bankruptcy of thousands of weavers in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government is considering to link the recent textile package of ₹ 6000 crore with precondition of manufacturing garments by utilizing Indian fabrics only under forward fabric policy, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for survival of small and medium scale industries from closure?

Setting up of Indian Institute of Fashion Technology in Andhra Pradesh

476. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to establish Indian Institute of Fashion Technology in Andhra Pradesh as per the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of the proposed outlay for establishing this project; and

(c) the incentives being provided for establishment of this Institute?

Free Trade Agreement with European Union

477. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether, with China's export growth in textiles dipping and India enjoying cost advantages, Government would explore the possibilities of entering into a Free Trade Agreement with European Union (EU) which has huge market potential;

(b) whether India is better placed *vis-a-vis* Bangladesh and Vietnam, both enjoying preferential treatment on tariffs and low labour costs, in terms of advantage of environmental compliances demanded by EU; and

(c) whether India is striving hard to capture new markets, after its textile exports dipped 3.3 per cent in 2015-16?

Training to handloom weavers/workers

478. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is providing training to handloom weavers/workers for upgrading their skills in weaving, dyeing/printing and design development areas so as to enable them to produce a market driven/diversified range of products;

(b) if so, the details of training provided to number of handloom weavers from all States, including Tamil Nadu; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Revision of Technology Upgradation
Fund Scheme**

479. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the status of implementation of Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) in the country, with particular reference to Telangana;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to revisit the TUFS, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the proposed revision would help the Textile sector to boost its production and exports?

Opening of Jan Aushadhi Stores

480. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of Government's initiative to open 3,000 Jan Aushadhi Stores (JASs) in the country

(b) the details of the Stores that Government is going to open in different States, State-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government has now allowed opening of generic stores by any person and is also going to grant ₹ 2.5 lakhs for this purpose, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when all the 3,000 JASs are going to be opened?

NEW DELHI;
The 12th November, 2016
Kartika 21, 1938 (Saka)

SHUMSHER K. SHERIFF,
Secretary-General.

INDEX

(Ministry-wise)

Agriculture and Farmers Welfare	: 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 461,
Chemicals and Fertilizers	: 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 480,
Communications	: 369, 370, 371, 372, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378,
Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	: 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395,
Electronics and Information Technology	: 373, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402,
Food Processing Industries	: 403, 404, 405, 406,
Law and Justice	: 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419,
Parliamentary Affairs	: —
Railways	: 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473,
Textiles	: 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479.